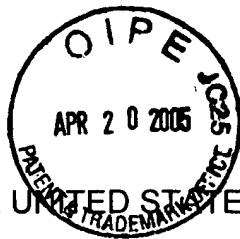


P24360.A02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hitoshi TANAKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appln. No. : 10/731,473

Examiner: Mohammed A. Hasan

Filed : December 10, 2003

For : STEP ZOOM LENS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop _____
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of October 20, 2004, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on January 20, 2005 and which period has been extended to expire on April 20, 2005 by the concurrent filing of a Request for Extension of Time, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections in the present application in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this Response.